

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00729 271307Z

41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /100 W

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R 271230Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7694

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, HE,IR, TU

SUBJ: GOT INTEREST IN TURKISH IRANIAN NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROPOSAL

REF: ANKARA 263

1. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING JANUARY 24 ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, FOREIGN MINISTER ESENBEL MENTIONED INFORMALLY TO AMBASSADOR SUBJECT OF PROJECT OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM IRAN THROUGH TURKEY. ESENBEL UNDERSTANDS THAT U.S.-BELGIAN CONSORTIUM (EL PASO-DISTRIGAZ-SOPEX) HAS ACQUIRED RIGHTS TO THE GAS FROM KANGAN FIELD AND IS CONSIDERING ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF TWO ALTERNATIVE ROUTES; I.E., VIA PIPELINE TO LIQUEFACTION PLANT AT ISKENDERUN, TURKEY, OR THROUGH SUEZ CANAL FROM LIQUEFACTION PLANT AT HEAD OF PERSIAN GULF. ESENBEL ASKED IF USG COULD POINT OUT TO EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY ADVANTAGES OF PIPELINE ROUTE ACROSS TURKEY. WE POINTED OUT TO ESENBEL THAT U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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BELGIAN CONSORTIUM IS STUDYING ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

OF TWO ROUTES BUT THAT FINAL DECISION IN ANY EVENT MUST GET APPROVAL OF SHAH. ESENBEL SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF USG IN CONTACTS WITH SHAH COULD MAKE CLEAR THAT SUEZ ROUTE CARRIES WITH IT RISKS OF INTERRUPTION EVERY FEW YEARS BECAUSE OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN THAT AREA. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT GOT COULD MAKE THIS POINT IN ITS CONTACTS WITH IRANIANS. ESENBEL SAID AS USG HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN IRAN IT COULD ALSO HELP.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND (AS REPORTED REFTTEL) THAT U.S.-BELGIAN CONSTORIUM REPRESENTATIVES MAY VISIT ANKARA(AND CAIRO) IN NEAR FUTURE IN CONNECTION WITH EVALUATION OF TWO ALTERNATIVE PIPELINE ROUTES. IT MAY BE USEFUL AS OPPORTUNITY IS PRESENTED HERE OR IN U.S. TO CONVEY TO U.S. COMPANY THIS INDICATION THAT GOT IS INDEED STRONGLY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ROUTE THROUGH TURKEY, BUT WITHOUT OUR SEEKING TO INFLUENCE FINAL DECISION. EMBASSY TEHRAN MAY ALSO FIND IT USEFUL TO PASS ON INFORMALLY TO IRANIAN AUTHORITIES THIS MANIFESTATION OF GOT INTEREST.
MACOMBER

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